

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-02
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O 291225Z AUG 78
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9137
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 3041

PRETORIA ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR PDEV WA SF ZA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: NUJOMA COMMENTS ON KATIMA MULILO ACTION

1. IN A SHORT INTERVIEW ON ZAMBIAN TELEVISION EVENING OF
AUGUST 28, SWAPO PRESIDENT SAM NUJOMA CHARGED THAT SOUTH
AFRICA WAS CONTINUING ITS ATTACK ON ZAMBIA'S WESTERN PROVINCE.
TERMING IT AN "UNPROVOKED" ASSAULT, NUJOMA SAID THAT SOUTH
AFRICA WAS STRIKING AT ZAMBIA BECAUSE OF PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S
SUPPORT OF THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE
SWAPO LEADER ALSO CHARGED THAT THE SAG WAS PLANNING FURTHER
AGGRESSION AGAINST NAMIBIANS AS WELL AS AGAINST INDEPENDENT
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NEIGHBORING STATES.

2. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION, NUJOMA STATED THAT SWAPO SUFFERED
"NO SIGNIFICANT LOSSES" IN THE ATTACKS, AND THAT THE FREEDOM
FIGHTERS WERE STILL ACTIVE AS THE ARMED STRUGGLE CONTINUED.
WHEN ASKED IF THESE INCIDENTS HURT THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS,
THE SWAPO PRESIDENT SAID THE SAG ACTION PROVED THAT IT HAS NOT

BEEN SINCERE IN THE DISCUSSIONS AND WAS AN INDICATION THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS NOT PREPARED TO HONOR A CEASE-FIRE. NUJOMA SAID THAT SWAPO, HOWEVER, WOULD COMPLY WITH A CEASE-FIRE UNDER UN AUSPICES. AT THE SAME TIME, SWAPO WOULD CONTINUE TO RESIST THE EXPLOITATION OF NAMIBIA AND ITS PEOPLE BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS WHO WERE BEING ASSISTED BY ITS "IMPERIALIST ALLIES."

3. COMMENT: NUJOMA'S CLAIM THAT SWAPO TOOK NO SUBSTANTIAL LOSSES WHILE REPORTS OF ZAMBIAN CASUALTIES (TWELVE DEAD AND SIX WOUNDED) ARE STILL IN THE NEWS, COULD NOT HAVE MADE ZAMBIAN AUTHORITIES HAPPY. DURING THIS PERIOD LEADING TO NATIONAL ELECTIONS, THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT HAVE TO DEAL WITH DISCONTENT WHICH INCLUDES CONCERN OVER ZAMBIAN SACRIFICES FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION STRUGGLES. KAUNDA AND HIS SUPPORTERS DO NOT NEED A NATIONALIST LEADER IMPLYING THAT THERE WERE MORE CASUALTIES AMONG INNOCENT ZAMBIANS THAN AMONG GUERRILLA FIGHTERS. NUJOMA'S CONTENTION THAT SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACKS WERE CONTINUING SIX DAYS AFTER THEY BEGAN ALSO PROBABLY DID NOT SIT WELL, CONSIDERING THAT THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN PUBLICLY SILENT ON ANY CONTINUED SAG MILITARY ACTION. NUJOMA'S LACK OF DISCRETION MAY HAVE GIVEN THE GRZ ADDITIONAL REASON TO TRY TO PUT A CLAMP ON SWAPO'S ACTIVITIES FROM ZAMBIAN SOIL.

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